

the termination of North Korea's missile program and undermined efforts by President Khatami and other pro-reform Iranians to moderate the policies of Islamic fundamentalists in Iran. The Administration's unilateral intention to withdraw from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, its abandonment of efforts to pass a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and its refusal to negotiate enforcement mechanisms for the Biological Weapons Convention will only compound this instability.

The protestors are also concerned about having civil liberties and basic rights undermined at home. The USA PATRIOT Act, which 65 of my colleagues and I opposed, allows widespread wiretapping and internet surveillance without judicial supervision. It also allows secret searches without a warrant and gives the Attorney General the power to determine what is and isn't a domestic terrorist group. The law allows the U.S. government to imprison suspected terrorists for an indefinite period of time without due process or access to family members or lawyers. Last November, the President announced his intention to establish military tribunals as well. The Administration remains confused about extending internationally recognized treatment under the Geneva Convention.

The protestors' central observation is that these actions will likely have the opposite effect of what is intended—U.S. efforts intended to quell international terrorism will provoke more of it. History is replete with the unintended and counterproductive consequences of U.S. action: the U.S.-led embargo of Iraq, which has led to the deaths of thousands of Iraqi civilians, has solidified Saddam Hussein's hold on power. Our government secretly sponsored anti-Soviet fundamentalists in Afghanistan and this led to the rise of the Taliban and their harboring of Osama bin Laden.

The path to ending terrorism, whether by individuals, organizations or nation states, is a foreign or domestic policy based on social and economic justice—not corporate concerns. This is the hopeful premise of H.R. 2459, a bill to create a Department of Peace. This Cabinet-level Department would serve to promote nonviolence as an organizing principle in our society. We should treat others as we would want them to treat us. We should follow international law, if we want others to do so. We should practice non-violence and encourage non-violent conflict resolution whenever possible. We should stop supporting repressive regimes, if we want democracy to flourish.

But that is not the path the Administration has chosen. Those gathering in Washington, DC believe we cannot stop terrorism with an open-ended, permanent war. They believe the time has come for new thinking in meeting the challenges of terrorism. I believe they are right.

INTRODUCTION OF TWO DUTY SUSPENSION BILLS

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing two pieces of legislation that will suspend the duties on two specific products imported into the United States. Both are

chemicals used in the production of agricultural herbicides.

Among the first herbicides to be registered in the United States, 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid, otherwise referred to as 2,4-D, is used principally by farmers to help protect crops from damage caused by weeds. In addition to agricultural applications, 2,4-D has been widely used to control broadleaf and woody plants on rangelands, lawns, golf courses, forests, roadways, and parks.

The other chemical, 2-Methyl-4-chlorophenoxyacetic acid, otherwise referred to as MCPA, is also an agricultural herbicide, but controls a slightly different spectrum of weeds. It was developed in the 1940's, and has been used since then to effectively control a wide variety of broadleaf weeds in cereals, grasses, flax, and non-crop areas.

Both chemicals are advantageous because they offer: broad spectrum weed control; low toxicity; low environmental persistence; little evidence of weed resistance following decades of use; and relative cost advantages over other chemical and non-chemical methods of weed control. In their long history, these chemicals have been tested according to modern standards and continue to meet regulatory acceptability.

So why is it appropriate to suspend the duties on these two chemicals?

First and foremost, MCPA is not produced in the United States, so a duty on foreign imports of this product only burdens American businesses. As for 2,4-D, only our trading partners with Normal Trade Relations currently pay the duty on this product; the majority of imports enter the United States duty-free under the Generalized System of Preferences. In this way, the duty undesirably discriminates against our good trading partners, and therefore should be suspended.

Cost is another reason to suspend the duty on these chemicals. Reducing costs is paramount in today's depressed agricultural sector. This bill helps agriculture producers and consumers in this effort by suspending the duty on critical herbicide inputs. In addition to helping farmers reduce their costs, this legislation would benefit the financially pressed federal, state, county and municipal government agencies that use these chemicals to maintain our roads, forests, rangelands, and parks.

The cost of inputs is such an important factor affecting the global agricultural economy that a proposal will be considered during the next WTO multilateral round of international trade negotiations to make all major agricultural inputs duty free. This "Zero for Zero" initiative will relieve agricultural producers and consumers from the unnecessary and burdensome costs of numerous duties. In light of this development, the legislation I introduce today is timely.

By suspending the duty on two chemicals, these bills lift a costly burden from American businesses, stop the discrimination against our close trading partners, and reduce input costs for agriculture consumers and producers. I urge my colleagues to support both bills, and I look forward to working with the Ways and Means Committee to include these bills in comprehensive duty suspension legislation that the Trade Subcommittee will consider in the near future.

HONORING ARTHUR AND CLARICE
WORTZEL ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, when Arthur and Clarice Wortzel are honored this Sunday on Martha's Vineyard, it will be with mixed feelings. We will wish the Wortzels well as they embark on their new life in Wisconsin; but we will miss the boundless community spirit which has characterized their years on the Island.

The Wortzels made Martha's Vineyard their home after many decades in the Foreign Service of the United States. Over the course of his distinguished career, Arthur Wortzel took on a variety of sensitive assignments. Mr. Wortzel and his wife, Clarice, became engaging ambassadors of American interests and values.

After retirement, the Wortzels put their skill and resolve to work for the benefit of the year-round community on Martha's Vineyard—from Community Services to the Foundation for Island Health, from the Dukes County Health Advisory Council to the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center. No task was too small for their kindness; no task was too large for their talent.

We're delighted the Wortzels can join their three children and their families in Wisconsin. We wish the Wortzels well and look forward to staying in close touch. Our community is better for their commitment, and we'll miss their wit, warmth and wisdom until their first visit back to the Island.

RECOGNIZING A CENTURY OF
SERVICE BY THE EL MONTE
WOMEN'S CLUB

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the El Monte Women's Club as they celebrate their Centennial Anniversary of service to the community.

On April 18, 1902, 34 women converted a three-year old Shakespearean Club into the El Monte Women's Club. A year later, the El Monte Women's Club became chartered as a San Gabriel Valley District, California Federation of Women's Clubs. The guiding principle of the Club is to unite women's clubs and like organizations throughout the world to benefit and promote their common interests in education, public welfare, moral values, civic, and fine arts.

Throughout its 100 years, the El Monte Women's Club has instituted a tradition of community service benefiting the residents of El Monte. Today, the club is the largest non-denominational women's volunteer service organization in the city. Members of the club are largely women that take great pride in their commitment to provide scholarships for youth in the community.

Among the many programs sponsored by the club, the El Monte Women's Club actively